



# Unassessed Waters Initiative (2010 -2012)

*HOW CAN YOU HELP??*

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# Pennsylvania's Flowing Water Resource

- PA contains 86,000 miles of flowing water (61,909 individual streams)
- *Before the unassessed waters project:*
  - 21,654 miles had been sampled (3,175 streams)
  - and
  - 12,677 miles were designated as wild trout waters



# Defining the Issue

- To date, approximately 58,000 waters in Pennsylvania have not been surveyed
- Most are small first and second order streams
- Proper classification through biological surveys is necessary to adequately protect these streams from accelerations in development
- Human development, coal extraction and Marcellus Shale drilling activities are primary threats



# Strategic Trout Plan

## Priority Issue #1

“The PFBC has not assessed all of the streams throughout the Commonwealth. As a result, the total number of streams that support wild trout populations in Pennsylvania is unknown, which leads to inadequate protection for these streams. The PFBC does not currently have the ability to assess the most at-risk streams at a rate that would outpace the rate of degradation.”

# Unassessed Waters Initiative

## Goal:

*Proactively identify and properly classify the most at-risk streams which support naturally reproducing trout populations in order to protect, conserve and enhance those waters as wild trout streams.*

# Wild Trout List - Benefits

- Increased knowledge about wild trout distribution
- Supports a minimum PA-DEP designation of Cold Water Fishes. Many qualify for Special Protection.
- Wetlands associated with the floodplain are classified as Exceptional Value



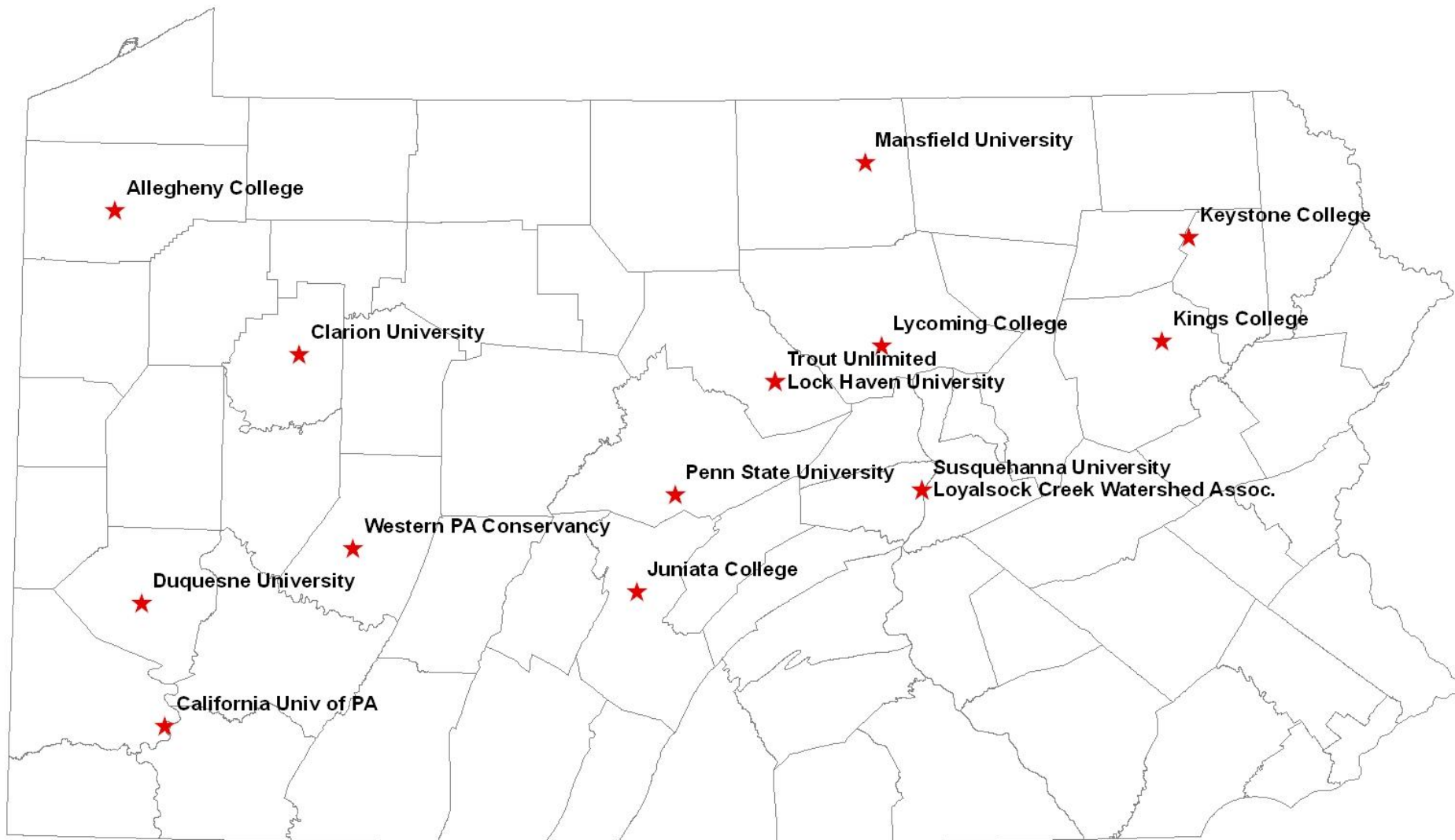
# Strategies:

(since PFBC does not have the manpower to assess streams at a rate that outpaces degradation)

- Develop a means to involve interested partners in identifying wild trout populations in unassessed waters.
- Developed and implemented pilot program with two colleges. Expanded to nine partners in 2011, fifteen in 2012.



# Unassessed Waters Initiative – 2012 Partners



## Number of Streams Sampled

	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
<b>PFBC Partners</b>	88	438	626
<b>PFBC Staff</b>	217	304	261
<b>Total</b>	305 (516 mi)	742 (1,762 mi)	887 (2,057 mi)

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**3 Year Total – 1,934 Streams Sampled  
4,335 Miles of Streams**

Since 2010 we have added 175 new streams to the wild trout list (516 miles)

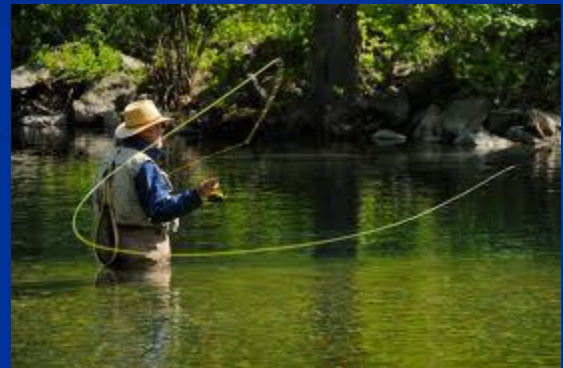
# Strategies (con't):

- Send sampling crews to high priority watersheds and on waters determined to be most at risk
- **Develop a prioritized list of unassessed streams.**
- Use GIS technology to identify potential wild trout streams (watersheds) most



# TU and local knowledge to the Unassessed Waters Initiative

- Involve the public's feedback into our protocols that determine which streams receive the highest priority to get surveyed
- Pilot study involving two PA TU chapters



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# On our end...

- **Make unassessed waters maps and accompanying lists (also posted on website)**
- **Create a data form for participants that will be submitted to the unassessed waters coordinators**
- **Advertise for public involvement**



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## MAP LEGEND



Assessed streams



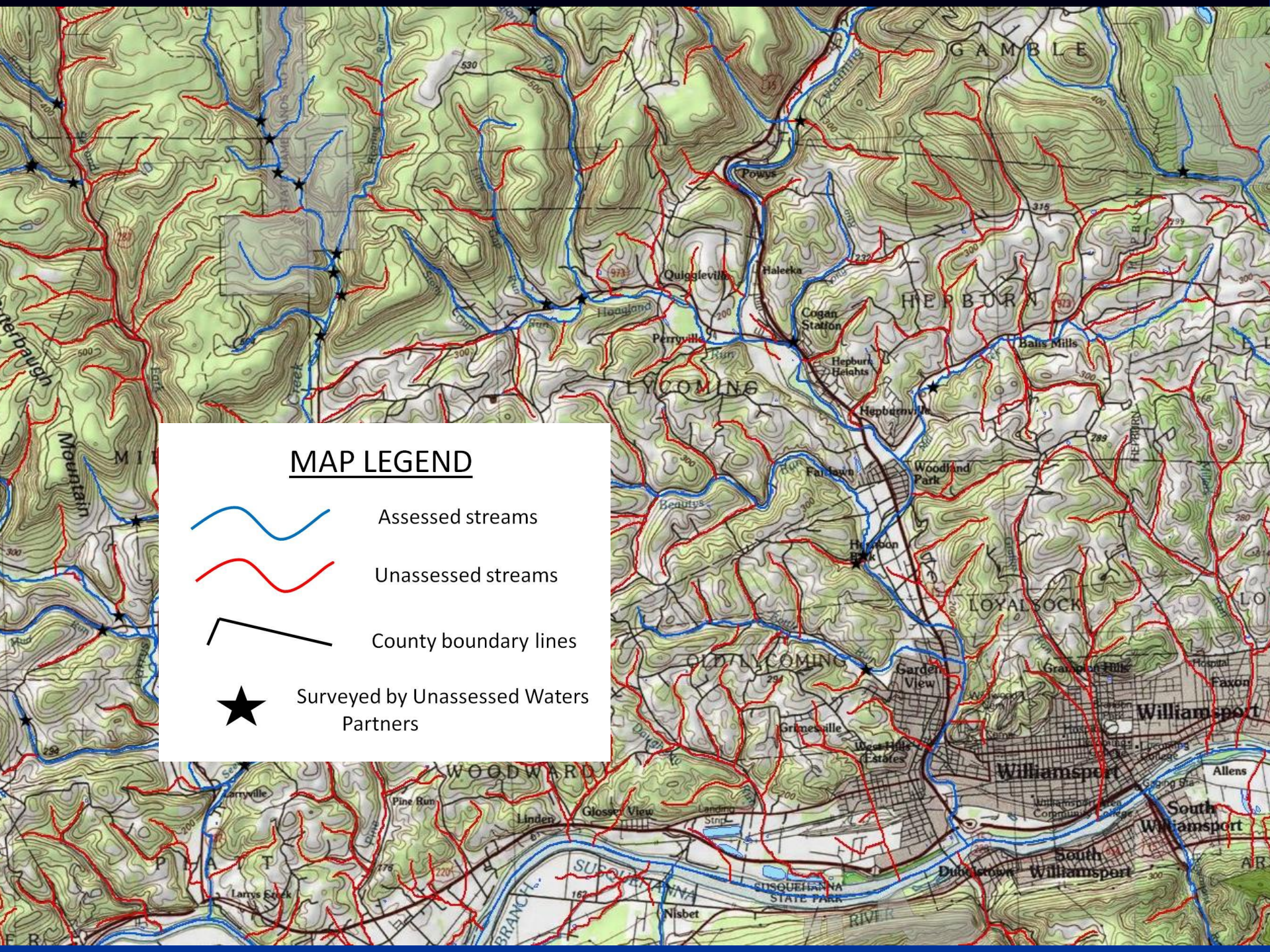
Unassessed streams



County boundary lines



Surveyed by Unassessed Waters Partners



\*\*\*Please submit Unassessed Waters only (red streams on the maps)\*\*\*

(You can leave some fields blank if that data is unknown)

Correct site location is the most important part-please be concise

When complete, please give form to your local TU chapter or other sportsmen's group representative.

Surveyed by:

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Date

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County

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Water name/ (Unnamed Tributary number)

---

Tributary to

---

Site latitude and longitude

Latitude:

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Longitude:

---

Physical description of site and  
nearest road name/number

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Water temperature

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Trout observed?

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Trout caught?

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General observations:

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Landowner contact information:

(will be shared only with approved  
unassessed waters partners.

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Otherwise, kept strictly confidential)

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☐

I certify that the above information is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

☐

I certify that I have checked to make sure the water above is not already assessed.

Signed and date

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YES or NO



# caught





# Coldwater Heritage Partnership

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) is a collaborative effort between the PA Fish & Boat Commission, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds and Pennsylvania Trout.

The purpose of the Coldwater Heritage Partnership (CHP) is to provide leadership, coordination, technical assistance, and funding support for the evaluation, conservation and protection of Pennsylvania's coldwater streams.

While Pennsylvania has over 83,000 miles of streams, only 25% are considered high-quality coldwater fisheries. Of that, less than 2% are designated as highly productive waters that contain naturally reproducing wild trout. The CHP's primary focus is to foster protection and improvement of these streams and their watersheds.

#### Goals of the program include:

- Foster a greater public understanding of watershed characteristics and how they affect coldwater ecosystems;
- Identify special areas of concern, such as areas with exceptional water quality with high potential for impacts;
- Produce conservation plans that will lead to additional planning or implementation of projects that protect and enhance our coldwater ecosystems; and
- Provide technical assistance and financial opportunities to organizations dedicated to protecting coldwater ecosystems.

## CHP NEWS

### Coldwater Heritage Partnership Announces 2012 Grant Awards

The Coldwater Heritage Partnership recently announced that over \$58,000 in grants have been awarded to local organizations to protect and conserve Pennsylvania's coldwater streams. The Coldwater Heritage Partnership is a cooperative initiative amongst Pennsylvania Trout Unlimited, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, and the Foundation for Pennsylvania Watersheds.

This year the Coldwater Heritage Partnership awarded both planning and implementation grants. Organizations funded by a planning grant will be responsible for creating a Coldwater Conservation plan that:

- Gathers existing data about the coldwater ecosystem;
- Identifies potential impacts, threats, problems and opportunities to our coldwater streams;
- Formulates a plan of action for proposed conservation and protection strategies; and,
- Builds community awareness and support for the conservation of our coldwater streams.

Organizations that received an implementation grant will complete projects identified in previously completed coldwater conservation plans. Potential projects must enhance, conserve, or protect coldwater streams for which the original coldwater

Coldwater Conservation Plans

Grant Application & Guidelines

Keystone Coldwater Conference

News

Partners & Staff

Resources

Unassessed Waters Initiative





# *Coldwater Heritage Partnership*

## UNASSESSED WATERS INITIATIVE

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Plans

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Unassessed Waters  
Initiative

### Welcome to Pennsylvania's Unassessed Waters Initiative for 2013!

We are currently accepting information from the public on where there is wild trout in unassessed streams. Please take a look at the appropriate maps to see if you know of wild trout in currently unassessed streams.

#### Maps

##### Clearfield County

North East Clearfield County   Central East Clearfield County   South East Clearfield County  
North West Clearfield County   Central West Clearfield County   South West Clearfield County

##### Elk County

North East Elk County   East Elk County  
North West Elk County   West Elk County   South Elk County

##### Jefferson County

North Jefferson County   South Jefferson County

##### Lycoming County

North East Lycoming County   North West Lycoming County   Central Lycoming County  
East Lycoming County   South Lycoming County   West Central Lycoming

##### Sullivan County

East Sullivan County   West Sullivan County   South Sullivan County

##### Union County

North Union County

Maps are clickable  
and printable

Data sheet is  
also clickable  
and printable



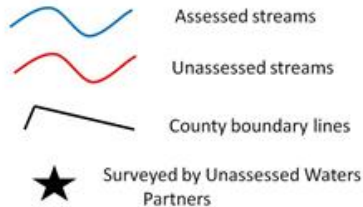
## Sullivan County

East Sullivan County   West Sullivan County   South Sullivan County

## Union County

North Union County

### MAP LEGEND



If you see a stream on the map that is unassessed (red streams) and you know there are wild trout in it, please print the data sheet and take it with you the next time you go fishing. Fill out the information on the sheet and give it to your local TU chapter or other sportsmen's group representative.

[Click here for a copy of the data sheet.](#)

If the stream is already assessed (blue streams), please do not report it here.

If you have a GPS unit and prefer to locate streams using it instead of the maps, below are lists of unassessed waters by county and the latitude and longitude of the stream mouth.

[Clearfield County](#)   [Elk County](#)   [Jefferson County](#)   [Lycoming County](#)   [Sullivan County](#)   [Union County](#)

Your data comes directly to the unassessed waters coordinators and is used to help direct our efforts by our partners for the upcoming sampling season. Once our partners confirm the presence of wild trout, the stream will be proposed for official listing on the PA Fish and Boat Commission's Wild Trout List. With this listing comes automatic Exceptional Value wetland protection for the stream, and the potential for additional development restrictions.

We thank you for your participation in this program.

~Go Fishing!!~



# What's involved for your Chapter

**Fishermen, please go fishing for us!**

**Contact person** (TU Chapter Representative) to act as the *only* go-between for the Unassessed Waters coordinators and the public

-in charge of collecting data forms from participants and using the survey website to submit data to the unassessed waters coordinators

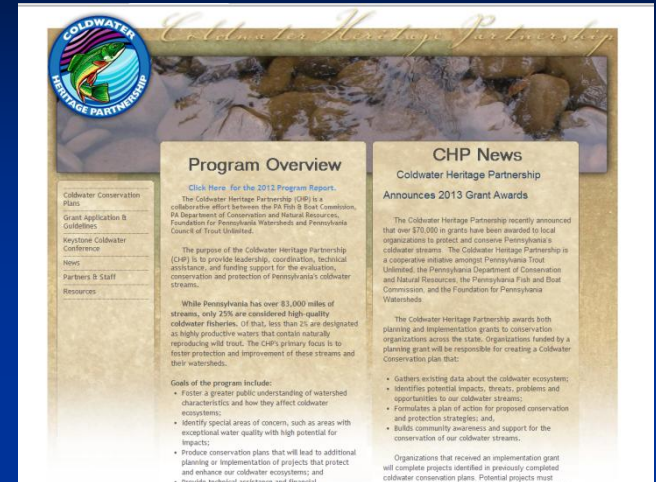


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# Official launch of pilot program

**Today!!**  
(April 10, 2013)

- Get the word out
- Timeline for the pilot project
  - Deadline to have data sheets to your chapter rep: **September 30!**



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# Questions?

